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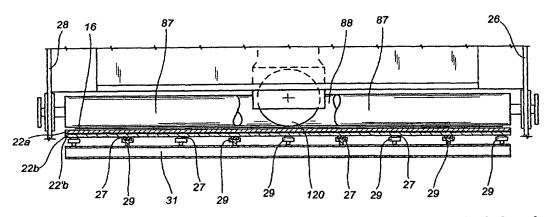
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(54) Title: AN APPARATUS AND WORK PLANE FOR CUTTING A MATERIAL



(57) Abstract: An apparatus (10) for cutting a material (16), in particular a fabric or the like, which is fed in the form of a continuous strip, from a respective reel (14), and cut into appropriate portions. The apparatus comprises a support frame (12), means (22) to support the material in the form of a work plane (22), on which the material is spread. Above the work plane (22) are one or more mobile cutting units (18), each with a material cutting blade (20). The work plane (22) supporting the material (16) is made from glass and is equipped with appropriate means to make the work plane elastically yielding in such a way as to perform the cutting of the material without the risk of the cutting blade damaging the work plane.





A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 B26D7/20 B26D1/14 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 B26D B26F Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category ° WO 01/039941 A (BECCARI CESARE ; BIERREBI S P A (IT)) 7 June 2001 (2001-06-07) 1-24, Α 29-32 the whole document 33 page 23, line 20 - page 23, line 24 page 23, line 20 - page 23, line 24 X Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Special categories of cited documents: later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance Invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 16. 02. 2004 22 October 2003 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 Canelas, R.F.





Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)
This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:
1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).
Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)
This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
see additional sheet
As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. X No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: 1-24, 29-33
Remark on Protest The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest. No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.
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FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-24,29-33

An apparatus for cutting with a compliant work plane.

2. claim: 25

An apparatus for cutting with a particular configuration of the blade.

3. claims: 26-28

An apparatus for cutting with another particular configuration of the cutting blade.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information at atent family members

International Application No
PCT/IE /02501

WO 0139941 A 07-06-2001 IT B0990662 A1 04-06-2001 AU 1543101 A 12-06-2001 CA 2393342 A1 07-06-2001 CN 1414897 T 30-04-2003 EP 1233851 A1 28-08-2002 WO 0139941 A1 07-06-2001 US 2002178887 A1 05-12-2002	Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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